Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00
MCE-00 HA-05 /084 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:RCEWING:AM
APPROVED BY EUR/SE:RCEWING
PA:MBADER
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O 020016Z AUG 78
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CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN IMMEDIATE

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EMBASSY ALSO FOR USEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, MASS, TU, GR, CY

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SUBJECT: HOUSE ACTION ON TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO: STATEMENT
BY THE PRESIDENT

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT ISSUED
TO THE PRESS EVENING AUGUST 1:

BEGIN TEXT

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I WELCOME TODAY'S VOTE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WHICH CLEARS THE WAY FOR A SPEEDY END TO THE ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY.

TOGETHER WITH LAST WEEK'S VOTE IN THE SENATE, THE HOUSE ACTION REFLECTS A BIPARTISAN, STATESMANLIKE RECOGNITION THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO TURN A NEW PAGE IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

IN RECENT WEEKS, THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT IN THE WEB OF PROBLEMS AFFECTING RELATIONS AMONG GREECE, TURKEY AND CYPRUS. THESE DEVELOPMENTS HELPED PRODUCE THE CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS WHICH WILL NOW ENABLE US TO PUT THE EMBARGO ERA BEHIND US.

BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY ARE VALUED AND RESPECTED ALLIES OF THE UNITED STATES. WE ARE EAGER TO HELP THEM STRENGTH-EN THEIR ECONOMIES, THEIR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEFENSE OF THE WEST.

MY ADMINISTRATION WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR A JUST AND LASTING SOLUTION IN CYPRUS. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE DISPUTES IN THE AREA MUST BE SETTLED THROUGH PEACEFUL PROCEDURES. ANY EFFORT TO IMPOSE A MILITARY SOLUTION WOULD BE ACTIVELY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY OPPOSED BY THE UNITED
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STATES.

TODAY'S DECISION BY THE HOUSE IS A CRUCIAL STEP TOWARD STRENGTHENING THE VITAL SOUTHERN FLANK OF NATO. IT WILL SOON MAKE POSSIBLE THE REOPENING OF OUR MILITARY INSTAL-LATIONS IN TURKEY. AND IT BRINGS ALL THE PARTIES CON-CERNED CLOSER TO THE GOALS OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. END TEXT VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, PRESIDENT, TEXT, ARMS EMBARGO, TEXTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE194451
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RCEWING:AM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780315-0547
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808106/aaaadlhm.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dcfd8a58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1559435
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HOUSE ACTION ON TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO: STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT IS
TAGS: MARR, MASS, TU, GR, CY
To: ANKARA
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dcfd8a58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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EO Systematic Review
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